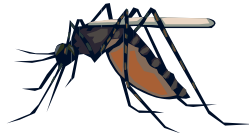


Triple E (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) Protection Advised



Recently, 17 communities in southeastern Massachusetts were designated “high risk “ by the Department of Public Health due to the detection of the Triple E virus in mosquitoes pools in their towns. Triple E is a serious disease. Mortality rate is 40% and those that survive have long lasting health effects. State and local Public Health officials are recommending that all activities from dusk to dawn be cancelled and that these areas be aerial sprayed with Anvil, a commonly used insecticide, from planes. Bordering towns have been designated “moderate risk “with the recommendation of an increase in education regarding the dangers of Triple E. Although Avon is designated “low risk” at this time, residents can take an active role in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by certain mosquitoes. To lessen the chances of contracting eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, the following precautions are being recommended by the local boards of health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

Avoid mosquito bites

- The hours at dusk and at dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning to the mid day hours.
- Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Use insect repellent when outdoors. Apply a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under 2 months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years of age.
- Truck base aerial spraying is available for Avon residents. Contact the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project (NCMCP) at (781)762-3681 or make a request on line at <http://www.massmc.org/ncmcp>. This is the same product that is used in the

plane based aerial spraying. NCMCP will only spray your property. Coordinating requests for spraying with your neighbors will ensure that your neighborhood is treated routinely.

Mosquito-proof your home

- Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- Cover, treat or drain the swimming pool if it is not in use this summer.
- Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tight-fitted screens on all of your windows and doors. Use mosquito netting on baby carriages.



More information about EEE and EEE risk is available on the DPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/wnv. Information about West Nile Virus (WNV) and EEE is also available by calling the DPH recorded information line at 866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7968).